

WILDFIRE HAZARD - DISTRICT 5

STATE PLAN

Goal 4: Reduce the community impacts of wildland and rangeland fires.

Objective 4.1: Reduce fuels in the wildland urban interface.

Objective 4.2: Reduce hazardous fuels in the rangeland areas.

Objective 4.3: Accurately assess and address the current wildland urban interface problems at the subdivision level.

Objective 4.4: Encourage sustainable growth in wildland hazard areas.

COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Big Horn	Continue to work with landowners and other trustees of sites on an incident basis to identify sites and secure sites that are within reach of a fire.	H
Big Horn	Review subdivision applications to make sure they meet fire safety requirements.	H
Big Horn	Update the "Way of the West" publication that was prepared by the county to inform new and existing residents about what to expect in rural Big Horn County. Include information on wildfire issues and response times.	H
Big Horn	Develop an outreach program for high school students to become members of volunteer fire departments.	H
Big Horn	Secure adequate public water supplies, including hydrants. Address specific needs of towns in the county.	H
Big Horn	Develop programs geared to school-age children about fire safety and utilizing techniques to prevent experimentation with fire and arson.	H
Big Horn	Continue to implement the actions identified for Muddy Cluster in the Wildfire Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Plan.	H
Big Horn	Continue to provide training and extend training for staff and volunteers.	H

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Big Horn	Work with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) to participate in mowing or prescribed burns along the rail corridor to reduce fuel build-up.	H
Big Horn	Review and revise as necessary the subdivision regulations to address fire safety needs.	H
Big Horn	Develop a building code for fire safety purposes (using the NFPA codes as a starting point).	H
Big Horn	Annually review equipment and identify gaps and needs.	H
Big Horn	Work with residents and landowners in the Pine Ridge and Sarpy-Tullock areas as individuals or in small groups to identify areas of fuel build-up.	H
Big Horn	Continue to implement actions identified in the Crow Fire Management Plan.	H
Big Horn	Work with tribal governments and housing authorities in order that new housing and other developments are built in defensible areas.	H
Big Horn	Develop and incorporate policies and methods for dealing with historic and cultural sites into fire agency standard operating procedures. Consider using outside assistance as part of an annual workshop/training to develop these procedures.	H

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Big Horn	Continue to assure that there is adequate personal protective gear and communications upgrades as necessary.	H
Big Horn	Equip underground water supplies (e.g., cisterns) in gas fields and other locations (such as fire suppression water supplies in new subdivisions) with standardized connections so that firefighters can withdraw water.	H
Big Horn	Continue to work to identify funding sources, such as grants, to acquire needed equipment.	H
Big Horn	Identify and address problems with access on existing county roads (e.g., such as some county roads in the Pine Ridge area).	H
Big Horn	Address fuel build-up and unmanaged fuels in Lodge Grass.	H
Big Horn	Identify "safe areas" and evacuation plans for each community in the county.	H
Big Horn	Involve all fire response teams (public, private—e.g., for coal mines, oil and gas, etc.) in stakeholder groups and planning for fire response.	H
Big Horn	Annually review existing 911 system and identify any issues, need for drills/exercises, or staff training.	H
Big Horn	Continue to mow and/or plow fire breaks around communities at risk.	H

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Big Horn	Complete the Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Plan for the Crow Reservation and implement recommendations.	H
Big Horn	Annually provide a workshop or training session for individuals who may find themselves as first responders to fire.	H
Big Horn	Provide information about personal safety in a wildfire situation and distribute via the media and presentations at schools, etc.	H
Big Horn	Provide education on ways to make properties less susceptible to wildfire, understanding wildfire, and role of fire (and/or other disturbance) in long-term land health/productivity.	H
Big Horn	Develop, review, and update annually a roster of contact information for fire fighting resources (both in-county and those available out-of-county), with names of contacts, lists of equipment, and other information useful for firefighting.	H
Big Horn	Continue to mow along roads in the county and to do this early in the fire season.	H
Big Horn	Develop a detailed map of critical infrastructure (e.g., power lines, roads, etc.), locations of fire fighting equipment and infrastructure, water sources, etc., and review and update annually.	H
Big Horn	Submit articles to the media about the importance of firefighters, recognizing outstanding individuals, and information on how to participate and who to contact.	L

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Big Horn	Build recognition for firefighters.	L
Big Horn	Identify a GIS technician and other technical assistance in the county to develop, coordinate and update GIS maps and the detailed roster information.	M
Big Horn	Public agencies to develop and follow post-fire procedures to reduce impacts.	M
Big Horn	Provide information on the access requirements for firefighting equipment to homeowners throughout the county.	M
Big Horn	Hold an annual workshop to review past fire season and prepare for upcoming season.	M
Big Horn	Work with Fidelity and other coal-bed methane exploration and development companies to identify available water supply sources as they become developed through the extraction process. Coordinate adequate access into the facilities.	M
Big Horn	Work with owners and managers of recorded sites to share fire suppression plans with local fire entities to familiarize responders with issues specific to the site.	M
Big Horn	Make sure that steps to reporting a fire are clear to residents. Review the telephone books annually to ensure that information is correct.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Big Horn	Sponsor community Fire clean-up day and/or other special events in communities throughout the county.	M
Big Horn	Expand public awareness about the need to protect historic sites.	M
Big Horn	For all other areas in the county, work with local residents and landowners to identify areas of fuel build-up and means to address.	M
Big Horn	Provide public education about how to reduce post-fire impacts.	M
Big Horn	Encourage homeowners to work with the fire depts. and other homeowners to provide adequate access.	M
Big Horn	Assess need and implement as necessary fire breaks around communication facilities, including radio repeater stations.	M
Big Horn	Identify and address hazard areas along the Big Horn River.	M
Big Horn	Identify and fund a staff person to provide public education on fire preparedness.	M
Big Horn	Annually review the status of fuel build-up and identify fuel reduction program status for various agencies---state (DNRC), federal (BLM, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation), local (county and towns), and tribal (Crow, Northern Cheyenne, BIA).	NA

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Carbon	Better communication with the local media about Red Flag warnings.	H
Carbon	Pursue WUI fuel reduction projects in high risk areas around the county including the Forest Service and the Red Lodge West BLM-private cooperative project.	H
Carbon	Develop an evacuation plan for each interface subdivision/area.	H
Carbon	Develop and/or purchase volunteer firefighter recruitment materials.	H
Carbon	Work with commercial providers to improve cellular communications in the Clarks Fork Valley.	H
Carbon	Work with the State of Montana and the Custer National Forest to develop a safe area in the West Fork drainage.	H
Carbon	Develop regulatory mechanism to ensure that subdivisions are built as approved and fire protection systems are initially and periodically certified.	H
Carbon	Have county attorney provide a training session for chiefs on providing input to subdivision review process.	H
Carbon	Create a map of the county showing water sources for fire fighting.	H

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Carbon	Determine locations for additional water supplies and pursue funding to develop new water sources available for fire protection.	H
Carbon	Meet with Klammerts Tie Yard to discuss fire prevention and encourage development of a prevention and response plan.	L
Carbon	Demolish the grain elevator at Edgar.	L
Carbon	Jointly develop a fuels reduction project for the Grove Creek major subdivision area south of Belfry (BLM, FS, RFD and private landowners).	L
Carbon	Attend a board meeting of the YBRA, the Girls Scouts, the Westminster Spires, and the Lion's Camp at the beginning of each summer to discuss fire prevention, fire protection and evacuation plans.	L
Carbon	Invite the BNSF to conduct annual briefings and training sessions on response to hazmat carried by the railroad.	L
Carbon	Develop or purchase evacuation pamphlets and distribute to rural residents.	L
Carbon	Develop goals and projects to return those areas determined desirable to their natural fire regime and manage other lands appropriately.	M

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Carbon	Target rural property owners and second home owners by including a fire prevention message with property tax notices.	M
Carbon	Develop desired condition maps, identifying condition class.	M
Carbon	Assist Red Lodge Mountain in replacing wood roofs with metal roofs on four base area buildings, creating defensible space on the south side of the Administration building, and thinning to protect the Palisades quad lift.	M
Carbon	Set up "call-out" data base in cooperation with dispatch center to document the number of responses.	M
Carbon	Report all responses to the state as requested.	M
Carbon	Bury 12 miles of electrical lines in the West Fork of Rock Creek drainage.	M
Carbon	Explore residents' willingness in the two uncovered areas (Piney Creek County District 16-2, and private parcel 141-A) to obtain formal coverage.	M
Carbon	Develop and provide a workshop that would qualify for continuing education credits for architects, engineers, and realtors on defensible space and fire wise principles.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Carbon	Develop and provide a workshop on defensible space and Firewise principles for the county planning staff and planning board.	M
Carbon	Review existing MOUs.	M
Carbon	Host a Firewise workshop for rural subdivisions in the Red Lodge area.	M
Carbon	Work with the Carbon County News to feature one volunteer firefighter in the newspaper each month.	M
Carbon	Continue Forest Service project to offer fuels reduction around recreation residences in the Main Canyon and the West Fork of Rock Creek.	M
Carbon	Develop new or update existing MOUs as needed.	M
Carbon	Continue work to implement assisting with fuel reduction at the 400 Ranch.	M
Carbon	Identify those areas of the county with constructed assets at risk and no physical access. Meet with property owners or subdivision associations to pursue remedies.	M
Carbon	Continue to pursue grant opportunities for equipment and training.	M

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Carbon	Conduct after action analyses for all major incidents or at least one annually by the Fire Council.	M
Carbon	Identify criteria for fire use allowing natural ignitions to continue burning within parameters.	M
Carbon	Monitor amount of contracted acreage in CRP.	M
Carbon	Monitor drought stress and mortality in timbered areas.	M
Carbon	Pursue grants for PPE and communications equipment upgrades.	M
Carbon	Raise awareness of fire danger through an advertising campaign including a series of articles, mailings and billboards.	M
Carbon	Implement the E-911 system.	N
Carbon	Develop maps of the wildland urban interface areas with safety zones and escape routes.	N
Crow Reservation	Build additional water storage as needed.	H
Crow Reservation	Identify needs for dry hydrants and install as needed.	H

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Crow Reservation	Provide education and information to the general public on how to reduce the number of human-caused fires.	H
Crow Reservation	Install water supply monitors at storage facilities.	H
Crow Reservation	Ensure adequate water supplies and pressure for concurrent fire suppression and basic public needs.	H
Crow Reservation	Bring all fire hydrants into working order.	H
Crow Reservation	Continue to implement BIA Wildland Fire Plan, Tribal Fire Plan/Community Fire Plans and applicable portions of the Big Horn and Yellowstone counties CWPP.	H
Golden Valley	Collaborate with USFS and BLM on fuel reduction projects.	H
Golden Valley	Provide training for volunteer fire fighters for wildland certification.	H
Golden Valley	Create defensible space around structures and promote FIREWISE programs in communities.	H
Golden Valley	Install a hydrant system in the town of Lavina to protect Main Street businesses which are connected wood structures.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Golden Valley	Secure portable water pumps with large diameter piping that can be laid in the Musselshell River.	M
Golden Valley	Obtain new fire truck for Ryegate.	M
Golden Valley	Construct new fire hall in Ryegate.	M
Golden Valley	Recruit more volunteer fire fighters.	M
Golden Valley	Provide better weed control around town of Lavina.	M
Golden Valley	Implement ordinances to not allow shake shingle roofs in fire-prone areas.	M
Golden Valley	Modify fuels in Bull Mountains.	M
Golden Valley	Create fuel breaks east and west of Ryegate and Lavina.	M
Golden Valley	Coordinate with landowners for enhanced grazing around towns to reduce fuels.	M
Golden Valley	Increase water storage facilities in town of Lavina.	M
Golden Valley	Install water tanks in outlying areas of the county.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Golden Valley	Clean up slash piles in the community of Lavina.	M
Musselshell	Provide community fire education regarding fuel reduction projects.	H
Musselshell	Develop a County-wide fire district for continued wildfire suppression and the implementation of structure protection.	H
Musselshell	Educate public on FIREWISE practices.	H
Musselshell	Develop sheltering strategy.	H
Musselshell	Develop FIREWISE programs in communities.	H
Musselshell	Investigate sources of used fire fighting equipment to equip fire halls.	H
Musselshell	Enhance evacuation procedures associated with wildfire events.	H
Musselshell	Coordinate with other agencies and landowners regarding construction of fire breaks.	M
Musselshell	Develop incident command system (NIMS) through development of a local Type 3 Team.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Musselshell	Develop or obtain training DVD on wildland firefighting and risk reduction that can be distributed to ranchers and homeowners.	M
Musselshell	Integrate structure and wildland fire strategies.	M
Musselshell	Amend existing building codes to apply equally to new single housing construction as it does to subdivisions to minimize risks to firefighters.	M
Musselshell	Recruit and provide continuing education for VFD and EMS personnel.	M
Musselshell	Develop a formal rural Fire Chief position within the County to manage overhead responsibilities across all county fire departments' response areas.	M
Musselshell	Coordinate with other agencies and landowners for implementation of fuels reduction projects.	M
Musselshell	Install water tanks in rural parts of the county.	M
Musselshell	Develop County policy concerning access in moderate to high risk WUI areas where subdivisions are built to insure adequate ingress and egress during wildfire emergencies.	M
Musselshell	Develop GPS database of water sources in County to enhance fire fighting efforts.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Musselshell	Develop County policy concerning building materials used in high risk WUI areas on new construction.	M
Musselshell	Provide training for volunteer fire fighters for wildland certification.	M
Musselshell	Install dry hydrants in rural parts of the county.	M
Stillwater	Develop maps of the wildland urban interface areas with safety zones and escape routes.	H
Stillwater	Raise awareness of fire danger through an advertising campaign including a series of articles, mailings and billboards.	H
Stillwater	Better communication with the local media about Red Flag warnings.	H
Stillwater	Develop an evacuation plan for each interface subdivision/area.	H
Stillwater	Look for quicker ways to publicize fire danger information.	H
Stillwater	Preplan reverse 9-1-1 areas and enter data into system.	H
Stillwater	Continue to pursue grant opportunities for equipment and training.	H
Stillwater	Create a map of the county showing water sources for fire fighting.	H

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Stillwater	Train EOC personnel in Disaster response.	H
Stillwater	Pursue grants for PPE and communications equipment upgrades.	H
Stillwater	Pursue WUI fuel reduction projects in high-risk areas around the county.	H
Stillwater	Build and equip an adequate Emergency Operations Center.	H
Stillwater	Have county planning office provide a training session for fire chiefs on providing input to subdivision review process.	H
Stillwater	Compensate firefighters.	H
Stillwater	Assure that firefighters have adequate training opportunities.	H
Stillwater	Monitor fuel load, drought stress and vegetation mortality.	H
Stillwater	Continue to improve the E-911 system.	H
Stillwater	Develop regulatory mechanism to ensure that subdivisions are built as approved and fire protection systems are initially and periodically certified.	H

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Stillwater	Determine locations for additional water supplies and pursue funding to develop new water sources available for fire protection.	H
Stillwater	Build and supply fully equipped dispatch facility.	H
Stillwater	Invite the BNSF to conduct annual briefings and training sessions on response to hazmat carried by the railroad.	L
Stillwater	Develop or purchase evacuation pamphlets and distribute to rural residents.	L
Stillwater	Explore residents' willingness in uncovered areas to obtain formal coverage.	M
Stillwater	Develop new or update existing MOUs as needed.	M
Stillwater	Jointly develop a fuels reduction project for the major subdivision area (BLM, FS, RFD and private landowners).	M
Stillwater	Identify those areas of the county with constructed assets at risk and no physical access. Meet with property owners or subdivision associations to pursue remedies.	M
Stillwater	Bury electrical lines where possible.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Stillwater	Educate the public about the benefits of metal roofing.	M
Stillwater	Conduct after action analyses for all major incidents or at least one annually by the Fire Council.	M
Stillwater	Develop and provide a workshop on defensible space and fire wise principles for the county planning staff, planning board and fire personnel.	M
Stillwater	Host a Fire Wise workshop for rural subdivisions.	M
Stillwater	Monitor amount of contracted acreage in CRP.	M
Stillwater	Report all responses to the state as requested.	M
Stillwater	Target rural property owners and second homeowners by including a fire prevention message with property tax notices.	M
Stillwater	Develop and provide a workshop that would qualify for continuing education credits for architects, engineers and realtors on defensible space and fire wise principles.	M
Stillwater	Work with the Stillwater County News to feature one volunteer firefighter in the newspaper each month.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Stillwater	Work with commercial providers to improve cellular communications in the Stillwater Valley.	M
Stillwater	Review existing MOUs.	M
Stillwater	Increase visibility of protection services.	M
Stillwater	Develop and/or purchase volunteer firefighter recruitment materials	M
Stillwater	Work on improving "call-out" data base.	M
Stillwater	Upgrade MTAC.	N
Wheatland	Maintain watered landscape (green areas) around towns to serve as firebreak.	H
Wheatland	Develop regional water system with dry hydrants in each community.	H
Wheatland	Recruit and provide continuing education for VFD and EMS personnel.	H
Wheatland	Integrate structure and wildland fire strategies.	H
Wheatland	Develop or obtain training DVD on wildland firefighting and risk reduction that can be distributed to ranchers and homeowners.	H

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Wheatland	Remove abandoned structures in all communities.	H
Wheatland	Coordinate with other agencies for implementation of fuels reduction projects in county fire plan.	H
Wheatland	Mow and clean up fuels in all communities.	H
Wheatland	Implement fuel reduction projects.	H
Wheatland	Coordinate with other agencies for implementation of fuels reduction projects including Deadman's Basin, Snowy Mountain, Musselshell River near Harlowton, Timber Creek church camp, and around Shawmut.	M
Wheatland	Install dry hydrants in the north portion of the county.	M
Wheatland	Coordinate with ranches in north portion of county on placement of dry hydrants.	M
Wheatland	Construct new fire complex for Harlowton.	M
Wheatland	Obtain brush truck for town of Judith Gap.	M
Wheatland	Obtain fire tender for town of Judith Gap.	M

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COUNTY	MITIGATION PROJECT	PRIORITY
Yellowstone	Firewise demonstration houses.	H
Yellowstone	Wise building practices.	M
Yellowstone	Construct rural dry hydrants.	M
Yellowstone	Conduct wildland fire mapping.	M
Yellowstone	Older building sprinkler installations.	M